GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1211
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
PENSION SCHEMES FOR OLD AGE WIDOW AND DISABLED PERSONS
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the pension amount paid to old age persons, widows and disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government to ensure that the pension benefit reaches to the eligible persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (D. NAPOLEON)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the central assistance to the aged, widows and disabled.

(c) There are three pension schemes under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) viz Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS}. These schemes provide pension for those aged 65 years or higher belonging to households below the poverty line. The States/Union Territories are responsible for identifying eligible beneficiaries from the BPL List 2002 in rural areas and corresponding list in urban areas. Under IGNOAPS, States/Union Territories were advised to disburse the pension through bank/post office account while in the case of IGNWPS and IGNDPS, disbursement of pension through Bank/Post Office account has been made mandatory. In order to enhance transparency and accountability, software for NSAP-MIS had been developed. States/UTs are required to make the details of beneficiaries available in public domain.